

### REMARKS

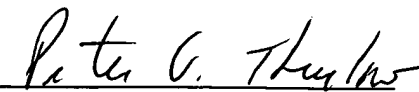
This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2003. Claims 1-17 and 25 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1-17 have been allowed. Claims 18-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 25 has added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Applicants note that new Claim 25 depends from allowed Claim 13 and is therefore allowable as well. Claims 10 and 13 have been amended as to matters of form only, to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 10, 13, and 16 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim 24 was objected to related to informalities; Claims 19-24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and Claims 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,409,296 (Misumi et al.). Cancellation of Claims 18-24 renders that objection and those rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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